

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SAA-01 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /100 W
-----038198 010110Z /64

R 310330Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9810
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7058

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AF, NK
SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION MAKES BRIEF VISIT TO KABUL

1. SUMMARY. A NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION RECENTLY CONCLUDED A TWO-DAY VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCLOSED. CLOSER AFGHAN TIES WITH NORTH KOREA WOULD TRACK WITH THIS REGIME'S OVERALL POLICY OF FIRING UP ITS RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. END SUMMARY

2. A TWO-MAN NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION HEADED BY KIM HYONG RYUL, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, ARRIVED ON AUGUST 26, AND WAS MET BY THE AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, SHAH MOHAMMAD DOST. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE KOREANS MET WITH HAFIZULLAH AMIN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AND DELIVERED TO HIM A "MESSAGE" FROM HIS COUNTERPART, HO TAM, NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PRIME
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MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER. THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE OR OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH AMIN WERE NOT DISCLOSED BY THE AFGHAN MEDIA. THE DELEGATION MET WITH NO OTHER HIGH-RANKING AFGHAN OFFICIALS, AND DEPARTED ON AUGUST 27.

3. OUR SOUTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE HAS DOWN-PLAYED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT, AND HAS SPECULATED THAT THE NORTH KOREAN MESSAGE

FROM HO TAM MAY BE ONLY AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE AFGHANS TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNING OF NORTH KOREA, BEGINNING IN PYONGYANG ON SEPT 9.

4. COMMENT: THE BREVITY OF THE VISIT, AND THE SINGLE MEETING WITH AMIN, COULD INDICATE THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS AS INNOCENT AS DESCRIBED BY OUR SOUTH KOREAN COLLEAGUE. NEVERTHELESS, THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY AFGHAN REGIME HAS STRENGTHENED ITS TIES WITH A NUMBER OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVEN CLOSER RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA WOULD BE A LOGICAL ELEMENT OF THIS POLICY. (NOTE: THE NORTH KOREANS ALREADY HAVE A SMALL RESIDENT EMBASSY HERE.) DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, GOODWILL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL07058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780356-0943
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978084/aaaaadfc.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1805dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1669073
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION MAKES BRIEF VISIT TO KABUL
TAGS: PEPR, AF, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1805dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014